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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/352,494

07/13/1999

KEVIN E. BREHMER

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02/08/2006

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EXAMINER

HO, TUAN V

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 02/08/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

1. The allowance of claims 13 and 14 has been withdrawn due to new grounds of rejection.

The examiner regrets any inconvenience to Applicants.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al (US 2002/0101528).

With regard to claims 13 and 14, Lee et al discloses in Fig. 4, a method for facilitating high signal throughput of an improved CMOS image sensor chip (pixel array 102 includes a plurality of photo sensors, (paragraph EO038)) comprising a plurality of photo sensors configured in a two-dimensional area (APS pixel array 12, [0026]), said method comprising reading out charge signals from said plurality of photo sensors row by row in parallel to respective column buses coupled to a double sampling circuit and a programmable gain amplifier (CDS circuit is coupled to a pixel column so as to receive a pixel image signal from the column and since the signal is generated without a level of noise reduced, the CDS circuits is connected to a PGA circuit where the signals are conditioned in the PGA circuit by amplification of the PGA), signals are digitized (ADC circuits 118 (0039) are coupled to the CDS circuits and

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process the signals in parallel)); It is noted that ADC circuits process the signals in accordance with a result from the PGA.

3. Claims 15-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. Claims 19 and 21-41 are allowed.

5. This office action is not made Final since new grounds of rejection applied to claims 13 and 14.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TUAN HO whose telephone number is (571) 272-7365. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri from 7AM to 4PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's acting supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (572) 273-8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

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TUAN HO

Primary Examiner

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